



Fulham United Football Club
Collins Reserve, Valetta Road, Fulham Gardens SA 5032

Player Pathway Policy

A. Purpose:

All football players will be placed in a team commensurate with their ability level and continually monitored to ensure they are on the best pathway for their development. Fulham United will endeavour, where possible, to provide players with the opportunity to play in the highest grade for their skill level.

As players develop at different stages, we allow for the movement of players between age groups, preferably up. Unexpected events may trigger a downward placement of a player. Occasionally, during the season, injuries, players playing for higher ages groups and holidays may reduce the number of players available for a specific age group.

Due to the impact that these decisions can have for the player, parents, coaches and teams, the club has created the following procedure to be adhered to by all involved.

B. Procedure:

Definitions:

- TC: Team Coach
- TD: Technical Director
- TM: Team Manager
- JC: Juniors Committee

1. Match day fill in

Reduced number of players available for Match Day.

- 1.1. TC informs TD as soon as it is known the team will require players.
- 1.2. TC requiring player identifies preferred player.
- 1.3. TD obtains input from both TC
- 1.4. TD makes decision on which player is selected.
- 1.5. TD or their delegate seeks parent approval for player move.
- 1.6. Where possible TC of team providing player will release player to train with the team requiring the player for the last session in the week leading up to game.

Last minute (less than 48h) player unavailability.

In the case of 11v11 games, TC from any age group may request players when there is a requirement for their game.

- 1.7. TC advises TD that they require players for their next game.



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- 1.8. TD decides if player movement should occur.
- 1.9. In the case of TD approving player movement, TD contacts TC from another team and both identify player(s) for fill in promotion.
- 1.10. TMs make the necessary arrangements to organise the player(s) availability for the game.
- 1.11. TC from team providing player will release player(s) from their team for that game.

2. Player promotion

TC from the age group or from above age group and/or TD recognise a player to be promoted. Possible Reasons: Player performing above expectations, dominating in the age group.

- 2.1. TC and TD identify the player.
- 2.2. TD and TCs from both affected teams form a panel to consider the following elements of the player:
 - Football skills
 - Safety physically
 - Fitness
 - Attitude and commitment of the player
 - Capacity to improve
 - Playing and training form
 - Composition of the relevant teams, including numbers, skill level, opposition level, tactical and strategic considerations.
- 2.3. If decision is made to promote the player, TD communicates decision and plan of transition to the relevant TCs. The parent/guardian of the player will be advised of findings and approval sought to transfer the player.
- 2.4. If the panel do not reach agreement, a new panel composed of TD and JC will review the promotion and communicate to relevant TCs, parents/guardians and to the player if required.



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2.5. Transition plan consists of the player training once a week for 2 weeks with the older age group, remaining with current team for the other sessions and game day. Performance at training evaluated and final decision made by TC of the older team and TD.

Team faces reduction of players available. Possible Cause: Promotion of a player, season ending injury, suspension or for family reasons.

2.6. TC and TD review team needs and TD contacts TC from younger age group prompting a panel to identify player to award the promotion

2.7. The transition plan (point 2.5) does apply in these circumstances, but player will be required to immediately play for the higher age group.

C. Player and Parent

1. Player and/or Parent may accept or refuse promotion by communicating the reasons to JC directly. If in the opinion of the JC a valid reason to decline promotion has not been supplied, the Player may not be considered for future promotions or team selections at the discretion of the club.
2. Player may be needed to play two games in the same day for different age groups.
3. Player may be required to play for the previous age group.
4. Players promoted to senior football team (e.g. U18s or Women's Reserves) may be required to play for their previous junior age group, therefore plans must be in place for injury prevention, fatigue and availability for both games in the same weekend.

D. TC, TD and JC

1. TD must inform JC of all player pathway movement.
2. JC may intervene at any stage if it believes proper process has not been followed.
3. All communication about player movement must be documented in writing preferably by email.
4. In the case of emergency need of players, phone calls and *sms* can be used but the process must be documented by emailing to TD for record keeping.